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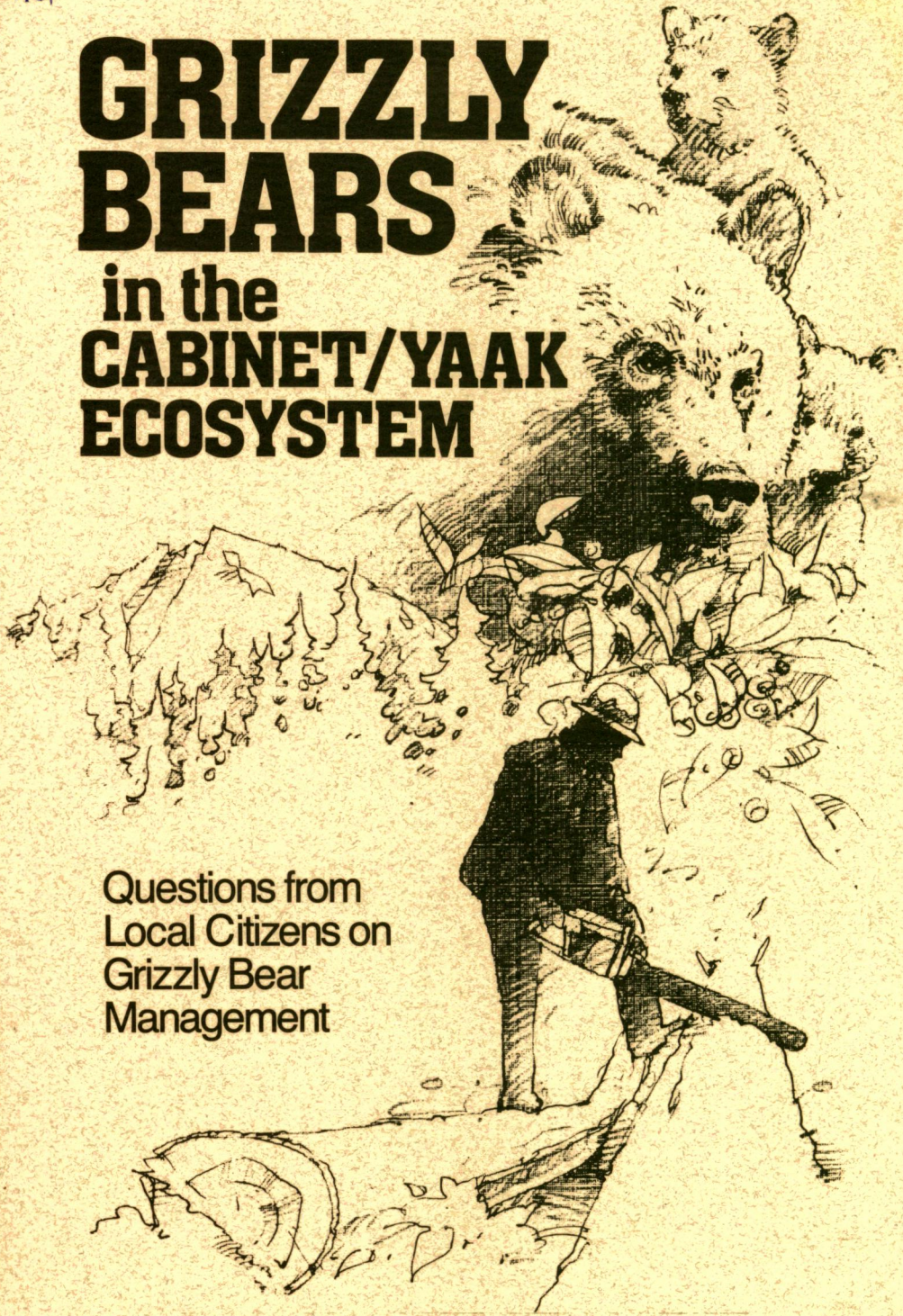
GRIZZLY BEARS in the CABINET/YAAK ECOSYSTEM



Questions from Local Citizens on Grizzly Bear Management

THIS BOOKLET, WHICH ADDRESSES THE CONCERNS OF LOCAL CITIZENS ABOUT GRIZZLY BEARS, WAS DEVELOPED BY THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF:

The Cabinet/Yaak Grizzly Bear Management Citizens Involvement Group

Cabinet Resource Group

Coalition for Balanced Environmental Planning

Communities for a Great Northwest

Libby Chamber of Commerce

Libby Rod and Gun Club

Lincoln County Commissioners

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

National Wildlife Federation

Northwest Energy and Employment Development

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Forest Service

Participation of organizations in development of this booklet does not necessarily imply support for any particular management approach for the grizzly bears in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem.

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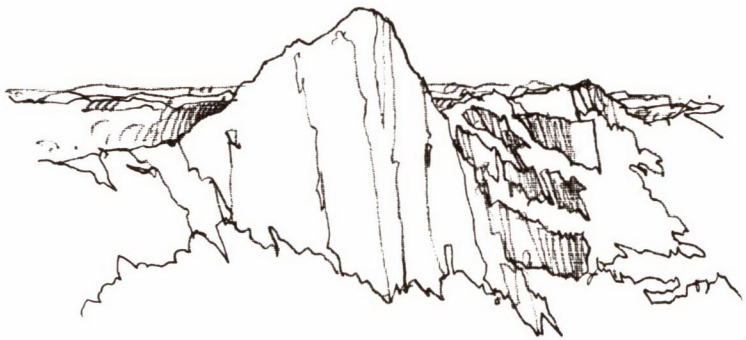
INTRODUCTION

The grizzly bear was declared a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 1975. The grizzlies in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem came under Federal protection as a result of this listing. Federal and State agencies are charged with managing threatened species. As part of this management, the agencies proposed placement of a limited number of grizzly bears into the Cabinet portion of the ecosystem in order to test the placement of bears and to try and get more breeding females into the Cabinets area to help this population.

There is much concern about grizzly bears and grizzly bear management in northwest Montana. In order to assure that citizens are involved in agency management of grizzly bears in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem, a Local Citizens Involvement Group was formed in 1988. This group is composed of local people nominated by the public to represent the views and concerns of the public to the agencies. One of the suggestions of the Local Citizens Involvement Group was to produce a question and answer booklet on the placement of bears into the Cabinets and on grizzly bear management and biology in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem. These questions were submitted by local citizens and hopefully cover most of the major concerns people have regarding grizzly bears in the Cabinet/Yaak area. This brochure has been distributed to all residents of Lincoln and Sanders Counties. We hope that this booklet helps to answer your questions about grizzly bear management in the Cabinet/Yaak area.



The Endangered Species Act and Recovery in the Cabinets

WHAT IS THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND WHO ADMINISTERS IT?

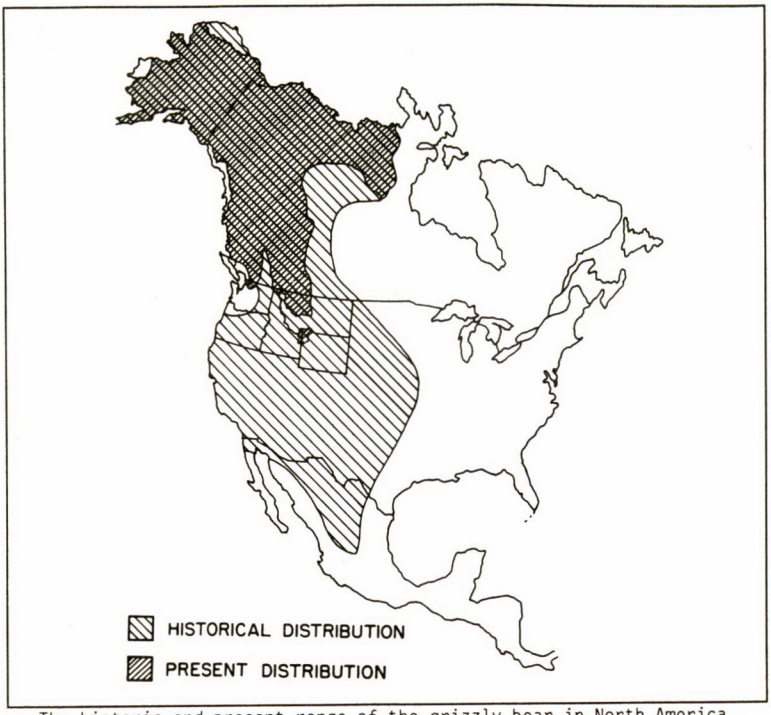
The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed by Congress and signed into law in 1973. It was last reauthorized in 1988. The ESA says that everything possible must be done to prevent the extinction of species or distinct populations of a species. It prohibits activities on federal lands or by federal agencies that would contribute to population declines. The ESA also prohibits killing listed species except under special circumstances. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the responsibility of administering the ESA. If a state writes a management plan that complies with the ESA, the state wildlife agency can cooperatively manage the species with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The state is then eligible for federal funding for the management and research of the listed species.

WHAT IS AN ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES ACCORDING TO THE ESA?

An endangered species is a species in imminent danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is a species that may become endangered if steps are not taken to prevent population declines.

SINCE THERE ARE HEALTHY GRIZZLY POPULATIONS IN CANADA AND ALASKA, WHY ARE GRIZZLIES LISTED AS THREATENED IN THE CABINET/YAAK ECOSYSTEM?

While grizzlies are found in many locations in the northern hemisphere, they have been eliminated across vast portions of North America. They now occupy only 1% of their former range in the lower 48 states. When the grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species in 1975, the Cabinet/Yaak area was one of the 6 places where grizzlies remained in the lower 48 states. The ESA requires federal agencies to use all methods possible to conserve and recover threatened species where they exist.



The historic and present range of the grizzly bear in North America.

WHAT OTHER PROTECTIONS EXIST UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT?

Under section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies such as the Forest Service must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to taking any action that may affect a listed species. By law, the Fish and Wildlife Service must issue a biological opinion that evaluates the proposed activity. Where an activity will "jeopardize" a species, the activity must be modified or forgone. This process has been in place for federal activities in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem since the grizzly bear was listed in 1975.

DOES THE SECTION 7 CONSULTATION PROCESS MEAN THAT LOGGING, MINING, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL BE PROHIBITED?

No. Most activities can be modified to avoid grizzly problems or even to help the bears. In the northwest, timber sales are

often scheduled during times of the year when bears won't be present, or laid out in such a way as to avoid or improve important bear habitat. Timber roads are often closed or even reclaimed for a variety of resource benefits including reducing the threat of bear mortality. Mining development and exploration have also been modified to better reflect grizzly needs. For example, helicopter access and temporary camps were used for mineral exploration in the Cabinets. A project would have to severely impact grizzlies and provide no opportunities for mitigation to be barred under the ESA.

WHAT IS A RECOVERY PLAN? WHAT IS A RECOVERED POPULATION? DELISTING? DOWNLISTING?

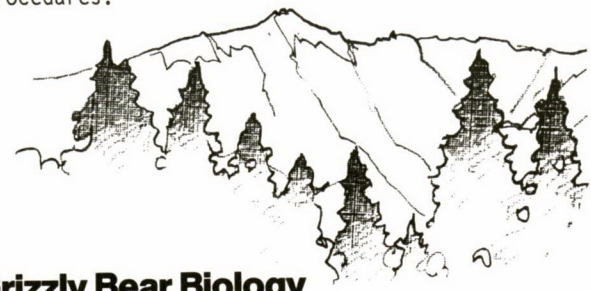
When a species is listed as endangered or threatened, a recovery plan is written by a team of biologists. The plan outlines actions that should be taken to increase the population to the point where it is no longer threatened and no longer needs federal protection. The implementation of the actions in a recovery plan are done through management documents such as forest plans. "Downlisting" occurs when the status of a population is changed from endangered to threatened. When the population increases to the point that it is no longer considered threatened, it is considered "recovered." At this point it is "delisted," or removed from the threatened species list.

HOW MANY BEARS DOES THE RECOVERY PLAN CALL FOR IN THE CABINET/YAAK ECOSYSTEM? IS THIS BIOLOGICALLY REALISTIC?

The Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan says that when there are 70 to 90 bears in the Cabinet/Yaak, the population will be considered recovered. Based on square miles and habitat, this means 45 to 60 bears in the East and West Cabinets, including both the Idaho and Montana portions. This is approximately 1 grizzly per 34 square miles throughout the ecosystem. Recovery plans and goals are reevaluated and changed every 5 years as new information is gained. The placement of the grizzly bears will give us better information on the needs of breeding females in the Cabinets portion, and the Yaak study will provide more information from that area. When that information is available the recovery goal can be better delineated. If new information indicates that the goal is not feasible, the recovery number will be reevaluated.

SINCE GRIZZLY BEARS ARE DIFFICULT TO COUNT, HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN RECOVERY GOALS ARE MET?

Methods for monitoring populations are being worked out in other recovery areas. One possible method calls for establishing a verified minimum number of females with cubs of the year that must be observed to delist the population, in addition to documenting the distribution of breeding females within the recovery zone. Sightings will be verified according to established procedures.



General Grizzly Bear Biology

WHAT IS THE LIFE HISTORY OF A GRIZZLY BEAR? WHEN ARE THEY BORN? HOW LONG DO CUBS STAY WITH THEIR MOTHER? HOW OLD ARE THE FEMALES WHEN THEY FIRST HAVE CUBS? HOW MANY CUBS DO THEY HAVE AND HOW OFTEN?

Grizzly bears usually have one to four cubs (average two), which are born in the den in January. They are blind and hairless and weigh about a quarter of a pound. Grizzlies have cubs every 3 years on average, and cubs accompany their mother until she has another litter. Grizzly bear mothers are highly protective of their young and will risk death to protect them. Female grizzlies usually begin to breed at 5 to 6 years of age. Male bears do not participate in caring for the young and may attempt to kill cubs. The average life span of a grizzly is 15 to 20 years. The oldest grizzly bear ever captured in North America was a female in the Cabinets. She was 34 years old in 1989.

WHAT DO GRIZZLY BEARS EAT? HOW MUCH DO THEY EAT?

Grizzlies are omnivores, which means that, like humans, they eat both plants and animals. They are also opportunists, meaning that they take advantage of whatever is available. Most of their diet is from vegetable material such as berries, roots, and grasses. They also scavenge meat from winter-killed animals, dig for rodents, and eat termites, ants, grubs and

other insects. If the opportunity arises they can become adept at fishing, although this is not a significant food source in the Cabinet/Yaak. Because they must live off stored fat for 6 months of the year, they eat large quantities during the time that they forage. An adult male may consume the caloric equivalent of 10 huckleberry pies per day during the height of the berry season.

DO GRIZZLY BEARS KILL BIG GAME ANIMALS?

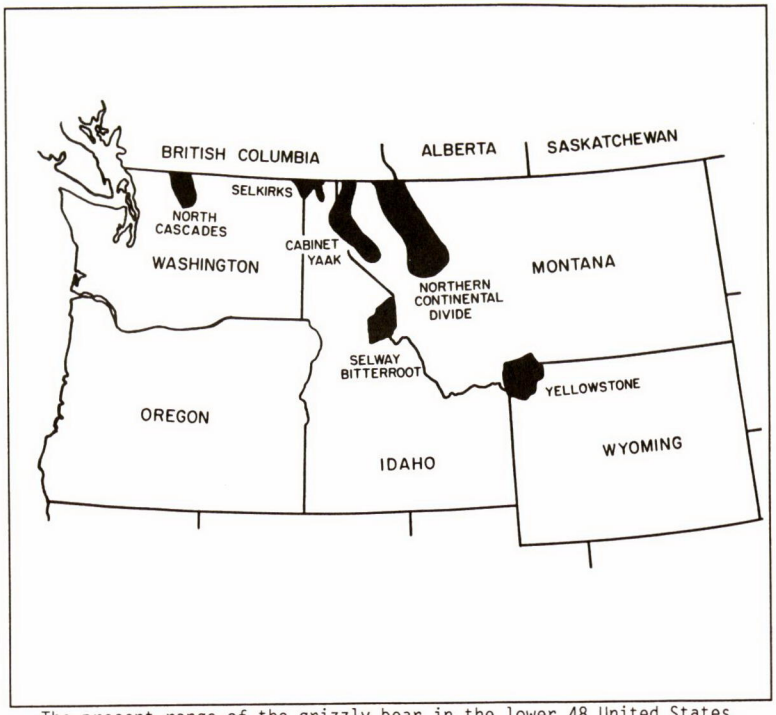
Yes. Grizzlies sometimes prey on elk calves and deer fawns. They generally are not very proficient at killing the adults of those species. In some areas, such as Yellowstone, big game can be an important food source. But in the Cabinet/Yaak only about 2% of the grizzly's diet is big game, and much of this is probably carrion.

DO GRIZZLIES DO ANYTHING BESIDES EAT?

Eating occupies much of a grizzly bear's time during the summer, but they also engage in a wide range of other activities. Grizzly bears are extremely intelligent animals and each individual has a personality of its own. Adult bears are sometimes observed on the highest peaks. Entire family groups of mothers and cubs have been seen sliding down steep snow slopes on their rumps and then climbing back up to do it again. They also enjoy water, and on hot days can be seen splashing and diving in pools and streams. They will play with each other for hours, both as cubs and when older, and will sometimes amuse themselves by playing and wrestling with logs and sticks.

WHAT MONTHS DO GRIZZLY BEARS SPEND IN THE DEN? WHAT DOES A DEN LOOK LIKE? HOW ARE GRIZZLIES ABLE TO SURVIVE LONG PERIODS IN THE DEN?

Grizzly bears generally den in October or November, emerging in mid-April. They often enter their dens during a snowstorm, but they may also den in the autumn before the onset of winter weather if they are very fat. They usually dig a den in a hillside or under the roots of a tree or use a natural cave. They've also been known to simply crawl into thick brush and let the snow cover them. They almost always den in alpine country above 6000 feet. A bear rarely uses the same den year after year. Grizzlies are true hibernators. During hibernation their heart and breathing rates and body temperatures are reduced. In this way they conserve energy so that they are able to survive on the fat they have stored during the summer. Bears can gain 50-100 pounds during the 6 months they are active. Bears do not



The present range of the grizzly bear in the lower 48 United States.

eat, drink, urinate, or defecate while they are in the den. Water is produced as their fat is metabolized, and this provides their body with necessary liquid. The functioning of a bear's kidneys is not well understood and is being studied to provide potential benefits for human kidney research. Bears may come out of their dens for a day or two during warm periods and sit in the sun at their den entrances. Also, they will awaken if disturbed.

WHAT IS A VIABLE POPULATION OF GRIZZLY BEARS?

A viable population is one with enough individual members to offer a reasonable chance that the population will not go extinct. Most biologists agree that 70 to 90 grizzly bears are necessary to ensure the population a 95% chance of survival for 100 years. A population of this size could not sustain much human-caused mortality. If a population does not have this

number, it needs to be connected to a larger, secure population or receive periodic transplants of new bears to keep the population healthy. Because grizzlies are long lived, a population of only 10 or so grizzlies may persist for 20 to 30 years before extinction occurs.

DOES A BEAR KEEP OTHER BEARS OUT OF ITS RANGE?

No, grizzly bears are not territorial. Home ranges of bears overlap. Each bear does have a certain "personal space" that it will not let another bear invade, and the bears will defend a food source.

HOW BIG IS A GRIZZLY BEAR'S HOME RANGE?

This depends upon how rich the habitat is in bear foods. Bears living in habitat that is rich with berries and spawning fish, such as coastal Alaska, may only utilize a 5-square-mile area, while bears in less productive habitat may require 70 times that much. Adult females in areas that are similar to the Cabinets but contain more bears, such as Glacier National Park, have home ranges of 50 to 200 square miles.

HOW BIG ARE GRIZZLY BEARS? ARE THEY DIFFERENT FROM THE BROWN AND KODIAK BEARS OF ALASKA?

The average spring weight of an adult male bear in the Rockies is 350-400 pounds; a female weighs about 250 pounds. A grizzly may gain 50 to 100 pounds during the summer and fall. Brown and Kodiak bears are the same species as our grizzly bears, but they are much larger as a result of their richer food source.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GRIZZLY BEAR AND A BLACK BEAR?

The black bear is a different, smaller species of bear, and it is more common in forested habitats than the grizzly. Black bears are found in 32 states, much of Canada and parts of Mexico. In Montana black bears and grizzly bears live in similar habitats except the black bear is rarely found above timberline. Black bears and grizzly bears range in coloration from cinnamon-like to black, therefore color alone is not a good way to tell the two species apart. Young grizzlies are no larger than black bears, so size is not a good indicator. Diagnostic features of a grizzly are long, curved front claws, a dish-shaped nose in profile, and a hump at the shoulders. Grizzly bear ears are often more rounded in appearance than the black bears' which are more pointed.

CAN GRIZZLIES CLIMB TREES?

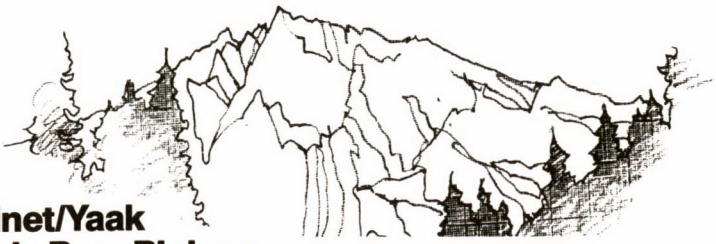
Yes, but they rarely do.

HOW FAST CAN A GRIZZLY RUN? CAN THEY RUN DOWNHILL?

Though grizzlies may look slow and clumsy, they can run as fast as a horse for a short distance and they can run equally fast downhill.

WHAT DO GRIZZLIES USE THEIR LONG FRONT CLAWS FOR?

Primarily to dig for rodents, roots and bulbs and to tear apart rotten logs and stumps for insects.



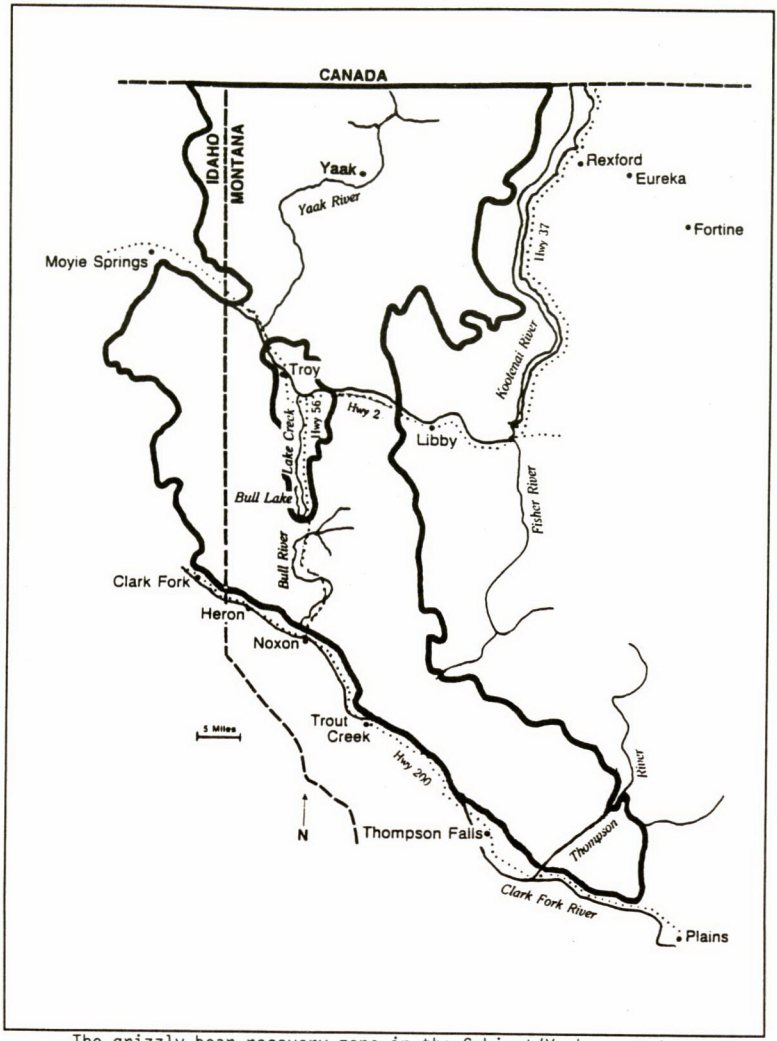
Cabinet/Yaak Grizzly Bear Biology

HOW MANY GRIZZLY BEARS ARE THERE IN THE CABINET/YAAK ECOSYSTEM?

Because grizzlies live solitary lives and exist in low densities, they are extremely difficult to count. It is estimated that not more than 15 grizzlies inhabit the Cabinets portion of the ecosystem, and few reproducing females have been positively identified. At this time there are no good estimates of grizzly numbers in the Yaak portion. A research project starting in 1989 will begin to gather the information necessary to estimate grizzly numbers in the Yaak portion.

HOW MANY GRIZZLIES WERE HERE HISTORICALLY?

No one knows. There is no information on densities from times before European settlement. Records from hunter kills from 1950 to 1988 indicate that more grizzlies were present in the past than today. From 1950 to 1988, 60 grizzly bears were known to be killed in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem. Of the 60 known kills, 46 occurred from 1950 to 1969 for an average of 2.3 deaths/yr., while only 14 known kills have occurred from 1970 to 1988 for an average of 0.74 deaths/yr.



The grizzly bear recovery zone in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem.

SOMETIMES THE CABINET GRIZZLY POPULATION IS DISCUSSED SEPARATELY FROM THE YAAK POPULATION, SOMETIMES TOGETHER. ARE THEY TWO SEPARATE POPULATIONS?

Biologists do not know but assume that the Cabinet/Yaak is one ecosystem. It is possible that bears avoid the Kootenai River because of human activity, but the level of development in the existing corridors is low enough that bear movement across it should not be a problem. Probably the limited number of documented crossings is due to either insufficient research or to the populations being so low that bears do not inhabit areas where crossings would be likely. For most purposes, the Cabinet/Yaak is identified as one ecosystem, with the objective of recovery extending throughout the entire area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NO BEARS ARE REPLACED IN THE CABINETS PORTION OF THE ECOSYSTEM?

If there is no movement from the Yaak to the Cabinets and even if no more bears are killed by humans, the low population and shortage of breeding females would likely lead to total extinction within the next 20 years.

WHAT CAUSED THE GRIZZLY BEARS TO DECLINE IN THE CABINET/YAAK ECOSYSTEM?

Biologists are not sure of all the factors. Habitat loss and human-caused death have certainly been major contributors. From 1950 to 1988, 60 bears are <u>known</u> to have been killed in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem from all causes. There was a legal hunting season on the grizzly in the Cabinet/Yaak area until 1974. Since the legal hunting season was closed in 1974, 4 grizzly bears are known to have been killed in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem. Of these, 3 were killed in self defense and 1 was mistaken for a black bear. Another known mortality was a legal kill in Canada of a bear originally marked in the Yaak portion of the ecosystem.

IS THE YAAK PORTION OF THE POPULATION AS FRAGILE AS THE CABINETS PORTION?

No. The Yaak portion contains breeding females and biologists know it is connected to the larger British Columbia population to the north. Currently, biologists assume that dispersal of bears from British Columbia helps to maintain the Yaak portion of the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem.

WHAT HAPPENS IF BIOLOGISTS FIND OUT THAT THE CABINET PORTION IS SEPARATE FROM THE YAAK PORTION WITH NO INTERCHANGE ACROSS THE KOOTENAI RIVER?

If that happens, the Cabinet portion may be considered a separate population. Agencies would then use all reasonable efforts to recover the Cabinets population. If, with the best possible scientific effort, it is not possible to achieve recovery, the effort might be abandoned. Another possibility would be to maintain a low density population below recovery levels forever, using periodic placement of bears into the Cabinets. This approach would be dependent upon interpretation of the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

General Grizzly Bear Management

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF A GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION CAN BE KILLED EVERY YEAR IF THE POPULATION IS TO MAINTAIN STABILITY?

Grizzly bears have one of the lowest reproductive rates of any North American mammal. Their populations can be overexploited very easily. No more than 5 to 6 bears out of population of 100 can be killed by man annually if the population is to remain stable. If one to 2 adult females are killed out of a population of 100, the population can be detrimentally affected, and harvest in subsequent years may need to be limited to prevent decline.

IS GRIZZLY SURVIVAL COMPATIBLE WITH LOGGING?

Yes, if timber harvest is managed properly. While timber harvest activity may temporarily displace bears, it does not necessarily cause long-term detrimental effects if road access is limited after the activity is complete. In the northwest, logging can sometimes improve bear habitat by providing openings favorable to plants that the bears use for food. Grizzlies do not like to get far from hiding cover and may not use large openings, especially if open roads are nearby.

WHAT MANAGEMENT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE LOGGING AND GRIZZLY BEARS?

Post-logging treatments like broadcast burning that preserve the soil layers and the roots of berry-producing shrubs are beneficial to post-logging production of grizzly foods. The primary problem with human activity in grizzly habitat is displacement and increased illegal mortality due to increased human access once roads are built. Effective road closures are one of the best ways to maintain both grizzly bears and timber harvest. Closing and replanting roads when timber harvest is finished and closing nearby established roads while new roads are open can provide bears with the undisturbed habitat they need. Seasonal time-of-entry management is also a useful tool to allow harvest and not disturb important habitats when they are needed by bears.

IS RECREATION COMPATIBLE WITH GRIZZLY BEAR SURVIVAL?

Yes, recreation is compatible with grizzly bears. As long as people use common sense in bear habitat to keep clean camps and not surprise bears along trails, there is little impact on either people or bears from recreation. Most grizzly bears try to avoid people, so an encounter or even seeing a bear is unlikely.

COULD RECREATION BE IMPACTED BY GRIZZLY BEARS?

There could be rare instances in which a grizzly bear is frequenting an area used by recreationists or other forest users where the safety of the people or the bear is at risk. In such cases, temporary closures of the area may be instituted until the safety risk is past. Such cases have happened very infrequently on the Kootenai and their future occurrence would be rare.

Current Management and Research Plans for the Cabinet/Yaak Ecosystem

HOW LARGE IS THE CABINET/YAAK ECOSYSTEM?

The Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem contains approximately 2600 square miles within the grizzly bear recovery zone which is the area being managed for grizzly bears.

ARE THERE PLANS TO RELEASE GRIZZLY BEARS IN THE CABINETS PORTION OF THE CABINET/YAAK ECOSYSTEM? HOW MANY? HOW OFTEN? WHERE?

Yes. Federal and state agencies have been working with the Local Citizen's Involvement Group and other interested citizens to place 2 subadult females into the east Cabinet Mountains in 1990, and an additional 2 in 1991 if no significant problems are encountered with the 1990 placement. An example of a significant problem would be a human injury from one of the bears placed in the area.

WHY WAS THE CABINETS PORTION PICKED OVER OTHER AREAS FOR AN INCREASED GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION?

All of the grizzly bear recovery areas have plans in place that will lead to increased numbers of bears. Except for the North Cascades and the Bitterroot ecosystems, other recovery areas have more bears, and populations are expected to increase without the addition of bears from outside. There are so few reproducing females in the Cabinets that they may become extinct without outside intervention. Five years of baseline habitat and population research in the Cabinets portion has helped evaluate the need for and the possibility of success of this first placement effort.

WHAT COMPROMISES HAVE BEEN REACHED REGARDING PLACEMENT OF ADDITIONAL GRIZZLY BEARS INTO THE CABINETS?

The proposal to cross-foster (give grizzly bear cubs to black bear mothers to raise) was dropped. The number of grizzlies to be released was lowered from 8 to 4. Initiation of the placement effort was postponed from 1988 to 1989, then to 1990. The Citizens Involvement Group was formed and public forums were planned as well as intensive public education and involvement efforts.

HOW WILL THE RELEASED BEARS BE HANDLED? WILL CAPTURING AND DRUGGING THE BEARS MAKE THEM MORE DANGEROUS?

Grizzly bears will be captured in a remote area of southern British Columbia. A healthy grizzly population exists in the area and hunting is allowed. The bears will be anesthetized utilizing ketamine, a drug used routinely by veterinarians on dogs and cats. The bears will be examined for injuries, and a tooth will be removed for aging. They will be fitted with radio collars and ear tags, and immediately transported to the Cabinets in culvert traps. The bears will be awake during the transport process. Bears will not be fed or have other positive experiences with people. Capture is undoubtedly traumatic for bears and may make them more wary of humans and secretive. No injured bears or bears with a history of problems with people will be released.

IF TRANSPLANTED BEARS BEHAVE "UNNATURALLY" NEAR AREAS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY, WHAT WILL BE DONE?

Any grizzlies (including native bears) that exhibit any unnatural aggression towards people will be captured and removed from the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem. A placed (transplanted) grizzly that frequents areas inhabited by people will be relocated to the main Cabinet portion or destroyed. The Citizens Involvement Group will be kept informed of all such decisions.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF PLACED GRIZZLY BEARS CAN BE EXPECTED TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THE CABINET PORTION OF THE ECOSYSTEM?

Biologists expect some of the placed bears to remain in the area. Since bears have never been placed that have no history of conflict in a new area, their response after release is unknown. Even young bears may have strong homing instincts. Some or all of the released bears may leave after placement and attempt to return to their place of origin.

IF A PLACED GRIZZLY BEAR LEAVES THE RECOVERY AREA, WHAT WILL BE DONE?

All released bears will be fitted with radio collars and closely monitored. If they leave the area they may be brought back, depending on how far and where they go, and provided they have not had any conflict with people. If they continue to leave the area they may be taken back to their original capture site or they may be left alone, depending on the circumstances. Again,

the Citizen's Involvement group will be kept informed of any decisions regarding these grizzlies.

IF ALL 4 SUBADULT GRIZZLY BEARS ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AND SUCCESSFULLY REPRODUCE, WILL THE POPULATION BE OUT OF DANGER?

No. Adding 4 grizzlies will not assure the survival of the population. Even if there is no human-caused mortality, the population could die out because of inbreeding or something as simple as an overabundance of male cubs.

IF THE PLACED BEARS DON'T ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THE AREA OR THE POPULATION IS STILL IN DANGER, WHAT WILL BE DONE?

The situation will be reviewed after the success of the 1990 and 1991 placement of 4 bears has been evaluated. Local citizens, government agencies, and other interested parties will decide what to do next.

ARE THERE PLANS TO STUDY THE GRIZZLIES IN THE YAAK PORTION OF THE ECOSYSTEM?

Yes. A 5-year study in the Yaak portion will begin in the summer of 1989. Grizzly bear density, reproduction, movement and habitat use will be studied, as well as the relationship between the Yaak portion and the Cabinet portion of the population.

HOW MUCH WILL THE PROGRAM COST PER YEAR? HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE IN 1989? IS THERE ASSURED FUNDING FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS? WHERE WILL THE FUNDING COME FROM?

$80,000.00 is available in 1989 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service for initiating the Yaak study. Approximately $150,000/year will be sought to place 2-4 bears and monitor these bears for the next 5 years and to continue studies in the Yaak. Because the two areas can share the expense of flights, personnel, and other facets of the study, expenses will be lower than if either the Cabinet or the Yaak study were done alone. Money for monitoring the released bears will be allocated annually from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species budget, the U.S. Forest Service, and possibly the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. All wildlife programs are subject to annual review. Monitoring transplanted bears is a very high priority for the agencies. If the community supports continued monitoring, there is no reason to believe that funds will not be made available.

HOW MANY BIOLOGISTS WILL BE EMPLOYED THROUGH THE MONEY SPENT ON THE CABINET/YAAK PLACEMENT AND RESEARCH?

One full-time biologist and 1 to 3 temporary technicians helping in the summer will be employed.

How will more grizzly bears in the Cabinets affect me?

ARE GRIZZLIES A THREAT TO HUMAN SAFETY? ARE THERE WAYS SAFETY CAN BE INCREASED?

Certainly grizzlies can be dangerous, but grizzly attacks on humans are rare. Safety from bear attacks can be increased with proper precautions, including making noise when hiking and keeping a clean camp. Food should be made unavailable to bears in camp so as not to attract either grizzly or black bears. Common sense in bear country indicates that the sleeping area should be away from the cooking area. Bears that associate humans with food are more dangerous than those that don't. It is up to everyone living and traveling in bear country to make sure that they do not create a dangerous situation for someone else by allowing a bear to gain access to human food. Information on how to travel and camp in bear country is available from the U.S. Forest Service.

IS IT LEGAL TO KILL A GRIZZLY IN SELF DEFENSE?

Yes. The kill must be reported, and an investigation will take place to evaluate whether it was indeed a case of self defense.

IS IT LEGAL TO KILL A GRIZZLY BEAR TO PROTECT PROPERTY?

No. Grizzly bears can only be killed in self defense or defense of others, or in limited legal sport hunting seasons in some areas. There is no federal or state compensation for property loss from grizzly bears in Montana; but a private group, the Great Bear Foundation (P.O. Box 2699, Missoula, MT 59806), has paid compensation for some livestock losses due to grizzly bears.

WILL THE PUBLIC BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE RELEASED BEARS' LOCATIONS?

Yes, weekly releases with the general location of the placed bears will be given to the Lincoln and Sanders county newspapers. Precise locations will not be released.

IF A TRANSPLANTED BEAR ATTACKS SOMEONE, WHAT HAPPENS? WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Bears frequenting human use areas will be captured and either relocated to remote areas or removed, depending on the particular conflict. Should a bear be involved in an aggressive, unprovoked attack, the animal will be destroyed. The management agencies are responsible for minimizing any chances of bear/human conflict.

WILL LOGGING, MINING OR OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITIES BE INCREASINGLY RESTRICTED IF BEAR NUMBERS INCREASE?

No. Current management under the Kootenai Forest Plan will not change as a result of the placement. There should be no change in current management if bear numbers gradually increase or decrease. Timber sales and access to public lands should not be affected by bear presence. Activities on public lands in the Cabinet/Yaak ecosystem are currently designed to minimize negative impacts to bears through the environmental assessment process.

WILL DESIGNATED HABITAT FOR GRIZZLY BEARS BE EXPANDED ON THE BASIS OF MOVEMENTS OF PLACED BEARS?

No. Recovery areas are delineated in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. The recovery area will not be increased or changed due to movements of replaced bears. There may eventually be limited changes to the recovery zone boundaries as more information becomes available on the grizzly, but this would be done with public involvement.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A GRIZZLY IS SEEN AT A TIMBER SALE?

Nothing. The bear would be monitored to insure that there is no threat to humans or the bear. If a threat arises, the sale could be temporarily halted, but this is unlikely and has not occurred in the past.

DO GRIZZLY BEARS KILL LIVESTOCK? WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY DO?

Yes. A small percentage of bears learn to kill sheep and cattle. If they persist they are relocated or killed.

WILL BLACK BEAR HUNTING BE CLOSED IN THE CABINETS TO PROTECT GRIZZLIES? WHAT HAPPENS IF A HUNTER KILLS A GRIZZLY BY MISTAKE?

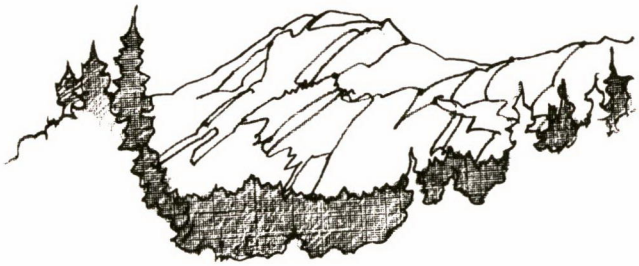
Black bear hunting has not been impacted in the past, and no plans exist to enact restrictions in the future. All hunters are expected to learn the distinguishing characteristics of the species they are hunting. If a hunter accidentally kills a grizzly bear by mistake, he will be charged with illegal killing, just as an elk hunter would be if he shot a moose by mistake.

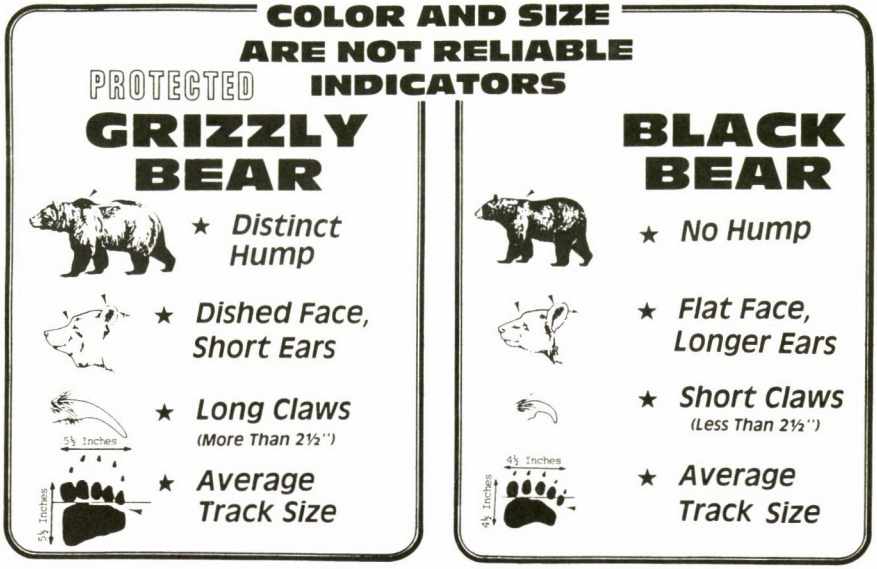
WHAT IMPACT WILL INCREASING GRIZZLY POPULATIONS HAVE ON BLACK BEARS?

Biologists do not know of any impact of an increasing grizzly population on black bears, but an intensive research project has been initiated on the interactions between the two species in another ecosystem to determine if there are any effects.

WILL IT EVER BE POSSIBLE TO HUNT GRIZZLIES IN THE CABINET/YAAK?

If the population reaches viable levels, a hunting season may be possible. As discussed in the management section, at least 70 to 90 bears must make up a population for it to sustain the killing of one adult female annually.





Identification characteristics for grizzly and black bears.

For more information contact:

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